

# Crusades to the Holy Land

In 1095 the Byzantine emperor asked the pope for help in defending his empire from Muslim attacks. The pope agreed and called on European Catholics to join in a crusade against the Muslims.

- It was the first of eight crusades in which Europe sent huge armies to drive Muslims from the Holy Land, especially from Jerusalem.
- Thousands of Muslims, Jews, pagans, and Christians died in the brutal fighting.
- The crusades failed to win permanent Christian control over the Holy Land. But they had the accidental benefit of increasing trade and knowledge of other cultures.



**A** Disease, hunger, and war along the way killed as many Crusaders as battles with Muslims did. Three of the eight crusades are shown below.

**B** When the First Crusaders captured Jerusalem, they massacred 40,000 Muslims and Jews.

